



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/617,461  
Applicant : Bernd Matthes et al.  
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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT (FEE )  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 6, 2005

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in this Continued Examination application to respond to the issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2004. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.